



SCAN *South Carolina Association of Naturalists*

Post Office Box 5651, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5651

November 2022

Hello SCAN members! Where does the time go?

In October, we had our ramble/soodle to Wateree River Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area in Lower Richland County. Our Regional Directors, David and Marty Kastner, knew the area well and gave some good advice on where and what to see on this huge diverse property.

We had a pretty good group this time around. Everyone remembered their orange!



Attendees L to R: Todd Johnston, Kim McManus, Dave Schuetrum, Lee Morris, Ron Ahle, Angela Valvasori, Joe Long, Julianna Nyikos, John Demko, Carol Gist, Jim Boylston, Stuart Greeter, Jerry Bright, Philoma Skipper, David Kastner, Alison Smith, Marty Kastner, and Kate Hartley.

Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management (WRHP) was purchased by Haile Gold Mine as partial mitigation for a mining operation that was permitted in Lancaster County, SC. WRHP will protect upland, bottomland and managed wetland habitats and provide recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing for the people of South Carolina. One important objective is to protect and enhance jurisdictional wetlands and streams on the property by restoring the natural hydrological flow in those areas where the water was historically diverted and by re-establishing bottomland hardwood species on other areas of the property. WRHP is a 3,674-acre tract of land located seventeen miles east of Columbia on Highway 378 near the Eastover community. The property is bordered by the Wateree River and is on the Richland/Sumter County line, with all of the land area in Richland County. The WRHP is comprised of the old Cook's Mountain and Goodwill Plantation tracts. It is an important tract due to the importance of the historic and natural resource characteristics of the property. You can still find graves, ditches and dikes built by enslaved Africans for rice production on the property. Land types on the property range from a beautiful hardwood forest along the river to some of the highest elevations in the central part of the state. The mountain itself rises an elevation of 372 feet above sea level, an anomaly in this area that offers scenic views for miles. The mountain was the home of Mr. James Cook, a famous cartographer, who produced the Cook Map of South Carolina in 1773.

The property also has a wide variety of plant and animal life. There are many wildlife openings on the property and numerous wildlife species including white-tailed deer, turkey, bobwhite quail and songbirds. Colonels Creek runs through the southern part of the property and there is a small fishing pond on the northwest border of the tract. Bird watching, hiking and wildlife observation are encouraged in addition to public hunting and fishing.

Much of the property was ditched and Colonels Creek's original path was diverted to control water hydrology for farming purposes by many of the previous owners. You can still see evidence of ditching in the bottomland hardwood areas of the property.



L to R: Southern Dogface; Joe Long enjoying the view of Cook's Mountain from the overlook pavilion; Julianna Nyikos and Joe Long documenting pollinators and flowers.



L to R: Asters abounded; Wateree River; Red-banded Hairstreak

Our next outing on November 19th will be to Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve in Horry County. We had originally scheduled our ramble to Sandhills NWR, but Regional Director Todd Johnston was advised by the Sandhills staff that hunting would interfere with our visit...so Todd scrambled to his backup place...Waccamaw River HP.

Dave Schuetrum
President

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve
Horry County
November 19, 2022

Eastern Regional Director: Todd Johnston
Meet at: 33.90998, -78.73543

Bring your *orange* due to hunting season

Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve has been established to protect and provide access to the Waccamaw River. Twenty-eight miles of the river have been preserved with a growing number of intermittent parcels of land on both sides of the river set aside for protection now totaling nearly 5,400 acres. Starting at the North Carolina border and meandering towards Hwy 31 before you get to Conway there are 7 access points for boating from the NC line. They are: Wortham's Ferry, Chris Anderson Memorial Ramp, Horry's Restaurant, Starr Bluff, Big Savannah Bluff, Little Savannah Bluff, and Red Bluff. One of the larger tracts of protected land for exploration without water transportation is near Longs, SC and that is where we will be meeting for our November outing. Historically the area was used by the Waccamaw Nation people traveling from the lake in NC to Winyah Bay. Today they have some land near Aynor at Dog Bluff and host an annual pauwau that is open to the public to share their traditional culture. Historically they cultivated corn, pumpkins, lima and kidney beans, and squash.

To learn more about the Waccamaw people:
<https://www.waccamaw.org/>

The black water river is an example of a riverine bottomland hardwood ecosystem. The river originates from Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina and is sandy coastal river instead of clay like many piedmont rivers. The floodplain of the Waccamaw River is broad and results in the formation of riverine features including swales levees, channel bars, and oxbows. There are also numerous portions of adjacent uplands and old fields where we will be exploring while reaching the riparian zones.

Trees that dominate the landscape are bald cypress, willow oak, water oak and water tupelo with some stands of Atlantic white cedar within the preserve boundaries. DNR notes that there are rare plant species within the preserve including Harper's fimbry, Plymouth gentian, pink tickseed, dwarf burhead, Sarvis holly, and dwarf bullrush. Migration in both spring and fall bring an abundance of birds to the area and Audubon notes that the white Ibis feeds here when water levels are low after nesting season. Many waterfowl including wood ducks make appearances along the Waccamaw River. Bears, turtles, otters, raccoons etc. use the area for safe passage and foraging.

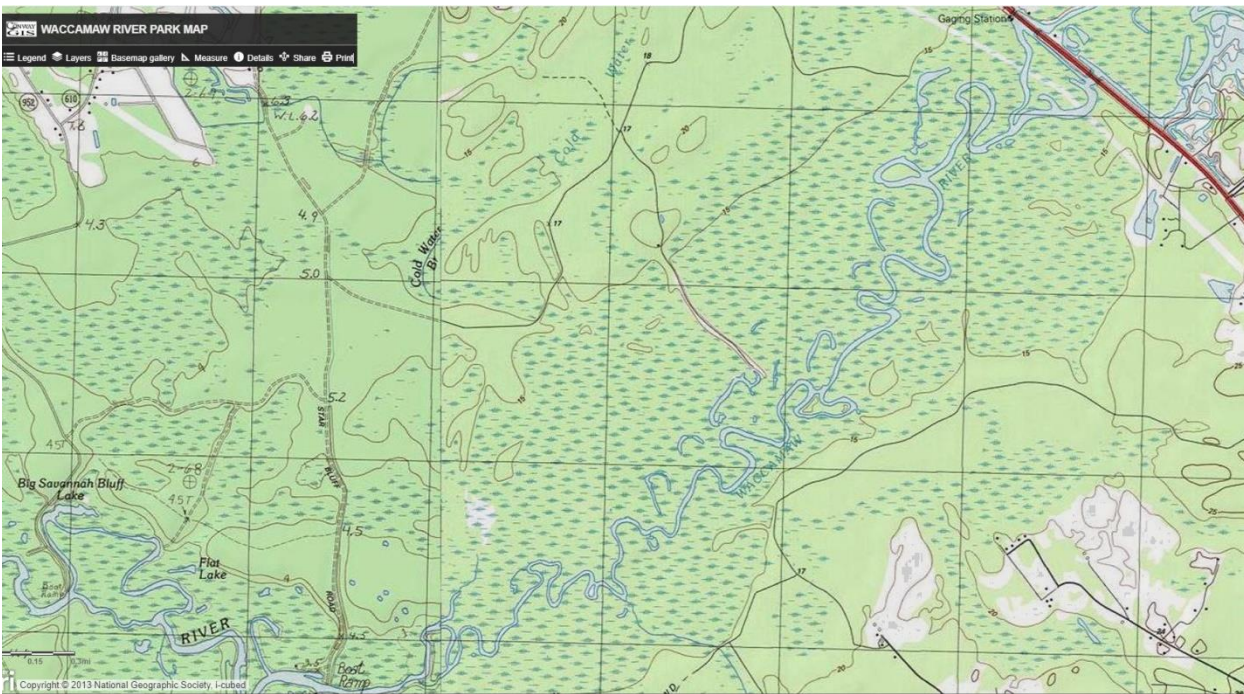
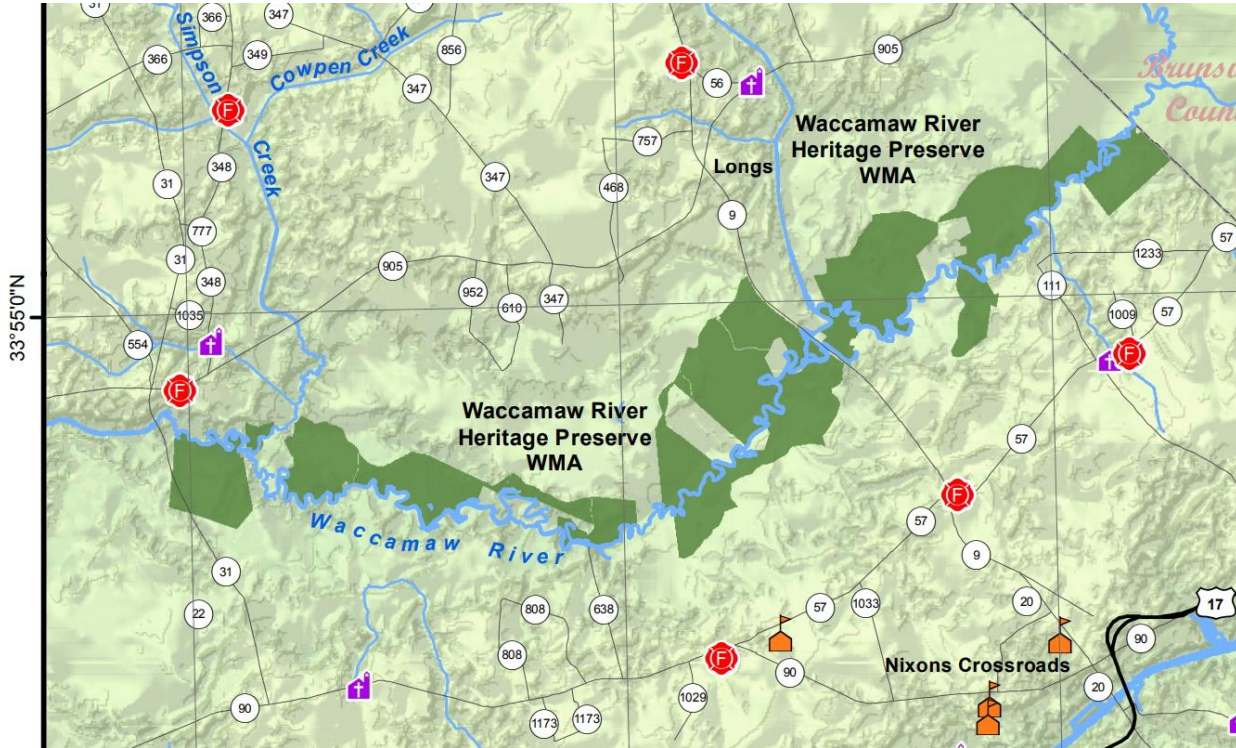
An interesting although older vegetation report of the coastal rivers of SC and NC including sampling at Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve can be found here:
http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/pulse/Report_88.pdf

For those interested in paddling here is a link to the Waccamaw River:
<http://www.bluetrailsguide.org/assets/pdfs/blue-trails/Waccamaw-River-Blue-Trail-Map.pdf?1e5620>

There are no restrooms and no parking lot at the heritage preserve. There is a Food Lion in Longs near the intersection of 9 and 905 with a clean restroom. They do allow camping along the river, just beware there are numerous sections of private property still along the 28 miles of river within the preserve. There are no developed trails but there are old dirt roads to explore. The turnoff to the preserve is along Hwy 9 East heading out of Longs, SC at 33.9211683, -78.7251554. In the previous outing for SCAN, we met at a gas station. However, I believe there is sufficient room along the road on the left as you are nearing the curve at marker C in the picture at 33.90998, -78.73543.

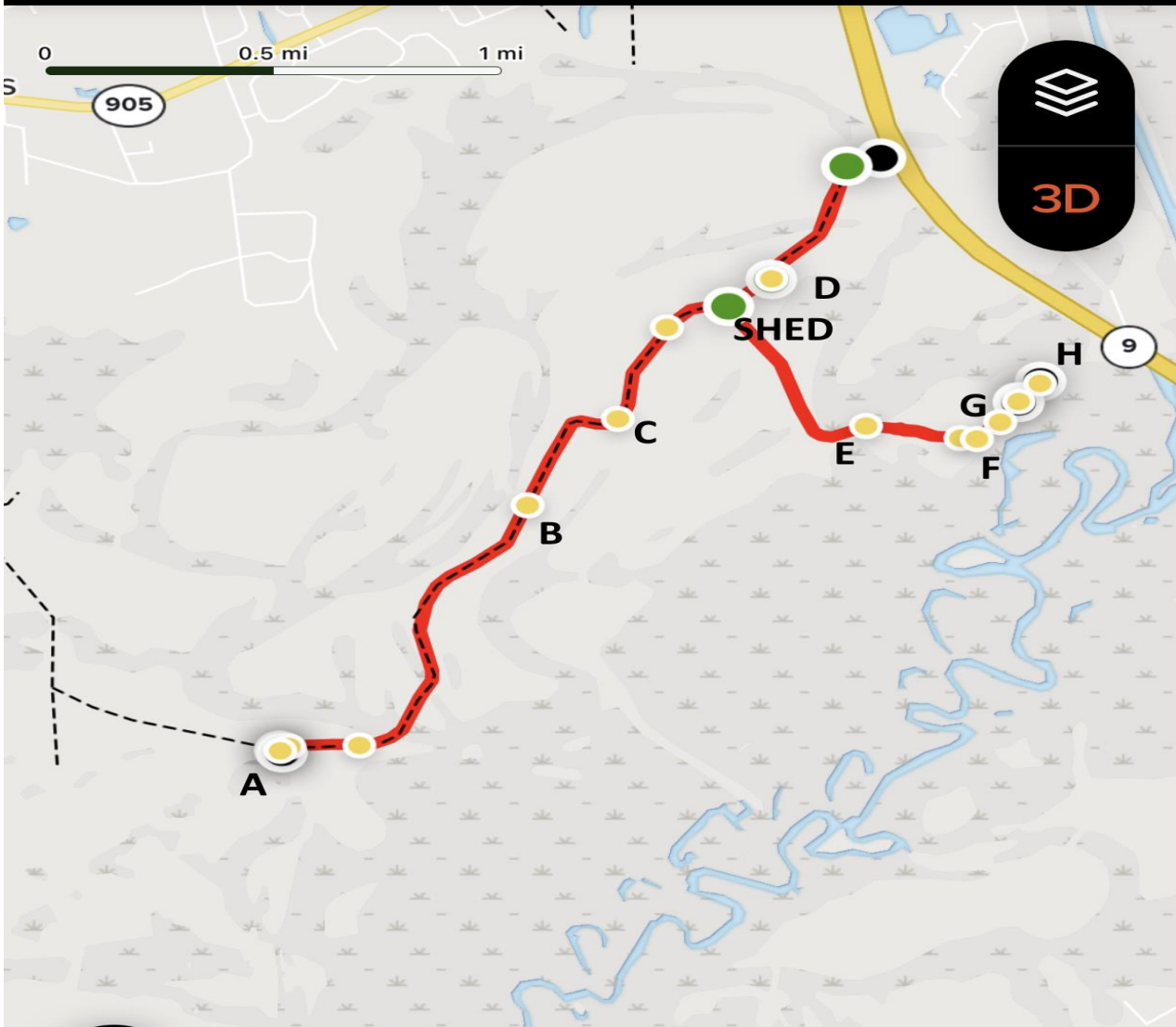
During the recon trip I used AllTrails to map the area and listed the waypoints for where there were possible trails and these can be found in the picture that follows. There is hunting on the property so bring your **orange**! See you there at 10:30 am.

Todd Johnston
Eastern Regional Director





Waccamaw River HP



Label	Significance	Coordinates
A	Road ends, 2 gated forest roads Cold Branch creek ~ .6 miles	33.89633, -78.74820
B	Closed gated forest road	33.90642, -78.73884
C	Meetup location	33.90998, -78.73884
D	power line access pathway	33.91573, -78.72961
E	firebreak pathway around upland forest	33.90968, -78.72604
F	Footpath on right	33.90915, -78.72185
G	gated forest road to fishing hole/river	33.90984, -78.72097
H	end of dirt road for vehicles, only foot traffic along utility right of way	33.91144, -78.71947

Wateree River Heritage Preserve
Richland Co., SC
October 22, 2022

This list was produced by SCAN from sightings produced by SCAN members and is subject to revision as needed. An asterisk (*) indicates a new sighting for SCAN. Send any changes or corrections to Kim McManus at scnaturalists76@gmail.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring in the subject line of your message. Thank you.

FLORA

Netted Chain Fern

Lorinseria areolata

Little Brown Jug

Hexastylis arifolia

False Garlic

Nothoscordum bivalve

Curlyleaf Yucca

Yucca filamentosa

Switch Cane

Arundinaria tecta

Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

Florida Betony

Stachys floridana

Sandhill Chaffhead

Carphophorus bellidifolius

Maryland Golden-aster

Chrysopsis mariana

Golden-aster

Chrysopsis sp.

Mistflower

Conoclinium coelestinum

Blazing-star

Liatis squarrulosa

Rough Blazing-star

**Liatis aspera*

Blazing-star

Liatis sp.

Devil's-walking-stick

Aralia spinosa

FAUNA

Crab-shaped Spiny-back

Gasteracantha cancriformis

Yellow Garden Spider

Argiope aurantia

Spotted Forest Orbweaver

Neoscona domiciliorum

Golden Silk Orbweaver

Trichonephila clavipes

Grasshopper

Orphulella pelidna

Fork-tailed Bush Katydid

Scudderia furcata

Blue-faced Meadowhawk

Sympetrum ambiguum

Southern Dogface

Zerene cesonia

Cloudless Sulphur

Phoebis sennae

Sleepy Orange

Abaeis nicippe

Little Yellow

Pyrisitia lisa

Red-banded Hairstreak

Calycopis cecrops

Gulf Fritillary

Dione vanillae

Zebra Longwing

Heliconius charithonia

Variiegated Fritillary

Euptoieta claudia

Pearl Crescent

Phyciodes tharos

Eastern Comma

Polygonia comma

American Lady

Vanessa virginiensis

Common Buckeye

Junonia coenia

Viceroy

Limenitis archippus

Gemmed Satyr

Cyllopsis gemma

Carolina/Intricate Satyr

Hermeuptychia sp

Appalachian Brown

Lethe appalachia

Silver-spotted Skipper

Epargyreus clarus

Long-tailed Skipper

Urbanus proteus

Clouded Skipper

Lerema accius

Fiery Skipper

Hylephila phyleus

Dun Skipper

Euphyes vestris

Eufala Skipper

Lerodea eufala

Ocola Skipper

Panoquina ocola

White Checkered-Skipper

Burnsius albescens

Tropical Checkered-Skipper

Burnsius oileus

Confused Eusarca Moth

Eusarca confusaria

Green Anole

Anolis carolinensis

Ground Skink

Scincella lateralis

Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata

Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis